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September 8, 1990

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, New York 10021



Dear Dr. Lederberg:

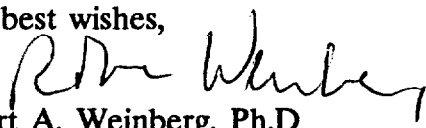
As you may know, the Third Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) will be held in 1991 in order to contemplate and update the international agreement designed to ban biological warfare and weaponry. As it now stands, the Biological Weapons Convention lacks verification measures, and confidence in it has eroded due to advances in biotechnology and allegations of the proliferation of biological weapons.

I have been chairing a working group of scientists and diplomats--sponsored by the Federation of American Scientists (FAS)--which has drafted the attached set of proposals for consideration by international policy-makers, in restoring confidence in this agreement. The working group consisted of a Core Group, which met on several occasions to draft specific proposals and a much larger group of Reviewers. The critique of the Core Group's proposals by the Reviewers represented important input to the final draft, which was assembled by Marie Chevrier of Harvard University. The list of those contributing to this report is enclosed herein.

Governments of States Party to the BWC are currently making preparations for next September's Review Conference. We would encourage you to bring the attached report to the attention of your government's foreign ministry soon, before concrete policy formulations have been made. And please, pass a copy of these proposals on to anyone you think would be interested in them.

Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated, and could have an important impact on the Third Review Conference and the future of the BWC.

With best wishes,


Robert A. Weinberg, Ph.D
Member, Whitehead Institute, Professor of Biology,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology and
Chairman, FAS Working Group on
Biological and Toxin Weapons Verification

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